(c) whether it is a fact that the economic status of carpet sector workers has not improved in the last two decades; and

(d) the steps proposed to improve the living standard of weavers in the carpet sector?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government have undertaken an All India Census of Handicrafts artisans including Carpet industry weavers, which, when completed, would *inter-alia* provide information on the geographical distribution of Carpet industry weavers in the country.

(c) Data on economic status of Carpet sector workers for last two decades is not available with the Government.

(d) To improve the living standard of weavers in the Carpet sector, the steps taken and proposed to the taken by the Government include: construction of workshed-cum-housing; health package; group insurance etc.

Institute of Carpet Technolgy of Bhadohi

1636. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
SHRI RAMNATH KOVIND:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Institute of Carpet Technology of Bhadohi in U.P. has not yet started functioning;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. For setting up of the Institute of Carpet Technology at Bhadohi in Uttar Pradesh, construction of building and providing of infrastructural facilities etc, has been completed. However, presently, approval of Revised Cost Estimate of the project and buying and installation of plants and equipments etc., is in prog

Modernisation of Textile Mills Under NTC

1637. SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to modernise textile mills under the control of National Textile Corporation; and

(b) if so, the number of mills to be modernised and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Govt. is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable mills of NTC, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the net worth of these mills turning positive, within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

Diversification/Marketing of Jute

1638. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred question 1689 given in the Rajya Sabha on 6th August, 1997 and state:

(a) The total amount spent till date alongwith matching grant by Government, year-wise;

(b) the name of the organisations, whether Government or NGO, with details of the project allocation from UNDP as well as the matching grant of Government of India; and

(c) The results, so far, achieved, project-wise, in quantifiable terms?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The total amount spent on implementation of various projects under National Jute Programme from UNDP funds amounted to US $ 19.53 million as on 31.05.98. The matching contribution from